(b) if so, what are the details of the said complaints; and

(c) what action has since been taken on the same, indicating the result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has received complaints from the consumers regarding inadequate availability of titanium dioxide in the country.

(c) The manufacture of Titanium Dioxide has been delicensed in order to encourage additional capacities. Government had also temporarily reduced duty on import of Titanium Dixoide to enable the actual users to import the same at a reasonable price.

Supply of titanium dioxide

291. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether applications for appointment as stockist of titanium dioxide pigment were invited from all over the country recently; and

(b) if so, what quantity of titanium is expected to be released to these new stockists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government does not oversee the appointment of stioskists or release of Titanium Dioxide to them by the manufacturers. At present, only two units are engaged in the manufacture of Titanium Dioxide in the country. Both these units are in Kerala and are under the administrative control of the State Government of Kerala.

Pressure tactics on bakreshwar Thermal Power Project

292. SHRI M.A. BABY:

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have exercised pressure tactics on Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project;

(b) if so whether Government are now planning to award the project to the Kulijian Corporation and C. Itoh; and

(c) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Global Tenders by NTPC

293. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC invited global tenders for its three proposed gas-based power projects to be located at Kawaas (Gujarat) Auraiya (U.P.) and Anta (Rajasthan);

(b) if so, what are the names of the lowest three bidders;

(c) whether it is a fact that NTPC tenders exaluation team while loading or adding up cost over the amount quoted by a bidder made a third party as the lowest bidder; and

thus manipulated in changing the order of the bidder;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether the pattern of loading shows that the dice was deliberately loaded against craft work and through the German Company, against BHEL;

(f) if so, whether re-evaluation of the decision is likely to be done; and

(g) if so, what are the details in this degard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (g) A final decision in regard to the evaluation of the offers and the award of contracts for the three combined cycles gas based power projects of NTPC has not yet been taken.

Developing biogas programme

294. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Board or Commission to develop biogas programme in the country in order to give it a boost; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE):(a) and (b) A Commission for Additional Sources of Energy (CASE) already exists which has taken policy decisions during last two years that have boosted the biogas programme and other non-conventional enery programmes. The CASE consists of Secretary, Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources as Chairman; Secretaries of Departments of Expenditure, Power, Science & Technology, Planning Commission; Director-General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Chairman, Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Power Projects in Private Sector

295. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have cleared some power projects in private Sector during the last three months; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) During the last three months, no proposal to set up a power project in a private sector utility has been cleared by the Government.

Contracts stopped by Bhopal unit of BHEL

296. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhopal units of BHEL has stopped giving contracts to new ancillaries developed in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so. what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the details of ancillaries which have been given contracts outside Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the number of new ancillaries from Madhya Pradesh which have been given contracts by Bhopal unit of BHEL during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.